

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image correction apparatus comprising:  
  
an image obtaining unit that obtains image data from outside constituted of a plurality of pixels each having a value ~~in a~~ of a color component among a plurality of color components;  
  
an average value calculation unit that calculates average values of color component values of pixels corresponding to individual color components in said image data;  
  
and  
  
a correction unit that corrects the color component values of individual pixels to match the average values of the color component values of pixels corresponding to individual color components with at least one specific reference value.
2. (Original) An image correction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:  
  
said correction unit uses one common reference value for said plurality of color components as said reference value.
3. (Original) An image correction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
  
a stage value calculation unit that determines three or more stage values between the average value of the color component values and a specified reference value for each of said plurality of color components, a number of stage values being identical to each other among said plurality of color components, wherein:  
  
said correction unit respectively sets stage values having an common order number among said plurality of color components as reference values for said plurality of color components and corrects color component values of individual pixels to match the average

values of the color component values corresponding to individual color components with said reference values set for the individual color components.

4. (Original) An image correction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said correction unit fixes a maximum value and a minimum value of the color component values corresponding to individual color components not to be corrected and corrects color component values between the maximum value and the minimum value by using a specific function.

5. (Original) An image correction apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

said correction unit sets a value achieved by further averaging said average values of the color component values corresponding to individual color components as said common reference value.

6. (Original) An image correction apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

said correction unit sets a maximum value among said average values of the color component values corresponding to individual color components as said common reference value.

7. (Withdrawn) An image correction apparatus comprising:

an image obtaining unit that obtains image data from outside constituted of a plurality of pixels each having a value in a color component among a plurality of color components;

a histogram preparation unit that prepares a histogram for each of said color components using said image data;

an average value calculation unit that calculates an average value of the histogram; and

a histogram conversion unit that creates new image data by converting the histogram so that an average value of a histogram resulting from the conversion matches a specified reference value.

8. (Withdrawn) An image correction apparatus comprising:

an image obtaining unit that obtains image data from outside constituted of a plurality of pixels each having a value in a color component among a plurality of color components;

a histogram preparation unit that prepares a histogram for each of said color components using said image data;

an average value calculation unit that calculates an average value of the histogram; and

a stage value calculation unit that sets at least three stage values between each of said averages value and a specified reference value; and

a histogram conversion unit that converts the histogram so that an average value of a histogram resulting from the conversion matches a stage value having a common order number among the plurality of the color components.

9. (Withdrawn) An image correction apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

the average value corresponds to a barycentric value of the histogram.

10. (Withdrawn) An image correction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the average value corresponds to a barycentric value of the histogram.

11. (Withdrawn) An image correction apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said histogram conversion unit converts the histogram by using an interpolation function.

12. (Withdrawn) An image correction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

said histogram conversion unit converts the histograms by using an interpolation function.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a control program used in an image correction apparatus, said control program comprising:

an instruction for obtaining image data from outside constituted of a plurality of pixels each having a value of a color component among a plurality of color components;

an instruction for calculating average values of color component values ~~each of~~ pixels corresponding to ~~one of the individual~~ color components ~~using in~~ said image data; and

an instruction for correcting said color component values of ~~said individual~~ pixels to match said average values of said color component ~~values with of pixels~~ corresponding to individual color components with at least a specific reference value.

14. (Currently Amended) A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising a control program used in an image correction apparatus, said control program comprising:

an instruction for obtaining image data from outside constituted of a plurality of pixels each having a value of a color component among a plurality of color components;

an instruction for calculating average values of color component values ~~each of~~ pixels corresponding to ~~one of the individual~~ color components ~~using in~~ said image data; and

an instruction for correcting said color component values of ~~said individual~~ pixels to match said average values of said color component ~~values with of pixels~~ corresponding to individual color components with at least a specific reference value.